

BRAVO COMPANY

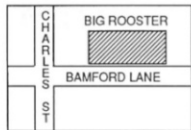
THE SHARKS IN 1990

Shark Company has cruised through 1990 with the usual finesse. A little "trouble in paradise" meant that BRL was slightly shorter. Before you could say "I didn't join the Army to go to war" our trunks were packed with spare socks and dry gunpowder. We couldn't deploy because the BN swimming carnival was to be held. Shark Company secured second place while the BRA gasped "thank God for the swimming comp". During February the Sharks beat the BFT and cuffed the CFT. Exercise First Shot separated the Wyatt ears from the 'also ran' shooters. March was our winners month as we scooped the Orienteering and X-Country trophies. CPL Brown decided that three months in England was better than one week with the Dog Squad and quietly sewed up overall third place in the inter-sect Mil Skills competition. In May the Company (after being tipped off about the impending invasion of Kuwait) conducted Anti Armour/Support Weapons live firing at HRTA. June saw the Sharks everywhere at once. LCPL Hungerford licked his foresight and became the Company champion rifle shot at MT Vince. Exercise "Noahs Arc" APC training proved to be wet and wild. As one wet Shark said "I thought war was a summer sport". Before our

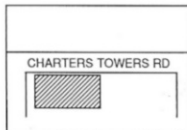
boots had dried we whipped off on our 40 km route march. BDE HQ attempted to catch us at a weak point by requesting an ODF callout at the end of our march. But the terrorists at Burdekin Dam were no match to our rage from bruised and blistered feet. An excellent deception plan was used by our 5 Avn taxis when they dropped CHQ at the wrong LZ. In July MAJ Griffin was called away to instruct fellow Company Commanders in 'morning tea etiquette' at Singleton. Meanwhile, the Sharks swam off to be first in and last out of Exercise Maxi Beagle. We won't forget SSGT John Rambo Jier guarding a POW all night while stranded at DZ orth or CPL Platypus Petracca doing a belly flop in Downey Creek on the move to the BN FUP.

The Beagle had barely been busted when the Sharks set sail on HMAS JB for Exercise Swift Eagle. After hitting the beach in "halls of Montezuma" style we proceeded to show our Ex Long Look Pom, LCPL Douglas just how far we are prepared to march for the sally man brew.

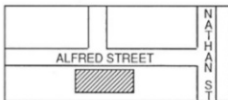
The end of Swift Eagle saw the Sharks wind down for an early BRL prior to deployment to Butterworth. Farewell to all who have served with the Company this year or helped us in any way. Good luck to all those deploying to Malaysia.



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Four Platoon

It's been a busy year for asbestos platoon. Our first major activity for the year was playing enemy for 31 RQR at Selwyn and Hilton mines. We made a definite fashion statement with our black headdress.

After our brilliant victory over the ARES we had a short rest period and prepared for the major exercise of the year. It was back to the jungle for Maxi Beagle with gympie plants devastating the platoon strength (particularly CPL Wear deliberately head butting a gympie tree).

From there we moved onto Swift Eagle where the platoon enjoyed a luxury cruise on HMAS Jervis Bay. The highlight of the cruise was the platoon demonstrating bayonet training without bayonets on the flight deck in rolling seas to the amazement of the RAN.

The platoon then participated in an airmobile and amphibious assault on Forrest Beach and acquitted itself well. We redeployed to HRTA where we participated in the Brigade live fire attack followed by a "short" evening and morning stroll back to camp.

The "last" duty week seemed to last forever before the platoon wound down for BRL. After BRL the platoon readied itself for its three month tour of Malaysia.

Quote of the Year:

LT O'Leary — "I'm the boss, I'm the boss, I'm the boss."



Lt Moody discussing his confidential report with the CO's wife.



B Coy, Freedom of the City

Five Platoon

The year 1990 as usual has seen many changes to the platoon and of particular note was the loss of SGT "K.C." Challands and the arrival of SGT Freeman, who takes over the tour of Malaysia.

During the year CPL T.J. Brown was rewarded for "services rendered" with a trip to the U.K. and the platoon received in exchange CPL Douglas (Duggy) from the British Army — "excellent". Duggy was fortunate to visit the gulf country — the real Australia — in his holidays. He accompanied Slam (the Barra man), Duncan and PTE Callow on a fishing trip to the region. The sandflies, snakes, spiders and crocodiles (especially the crocodiles) caused long bouts of insomnia in the hardened Englishman. This was only cured by the consumption of vast amounts of Fosters in the relative safety of the Central Hotel, Normanton.

Six Platoon

The platoon's year started with the possibility of a trip to Bouganville, but that was cancelled, possibly due to a lack of funds.

The rest of the year has been taken up with the usual duties, mil skills, pl and coy exercises, Bn air week (where we sat and watched the Blackhawks do more flying than we did), "Maxi Beagle", "Swift Eagle", platoon competition and pre-Malaysia leave.

Looking back over the year the platoon lost a lot of members, these being LT "Gordy" Luke (OC Pnr Pl), LT Stuart (now D Coy — we never got to see him), LT Brown (a pom who eventually learnt to make a good brew), SGT Chester, CPL Jakins (back to being a hand bag), LCPL Williams, LCPL "I want to be a fireman" Bennett, PTE Betar (now at uni as a civvy), PTE Connal (now a civvy), PTE Leiflang, PTE Hawks, PTE Sheppard, PTE Kelly and PTE Moran. PTE Moran tried to find a cheap way into a night club, but fell off the roof and

A few reminders to platoon members:

To Tony Warren (Minastrony): don't forget to take your rifle with you onto the APC.

To Lieutenant Moody: taxis are not the ideal place for regurgitating one's meals.

To PTE (The Hammer) Brown: excessive intake of McWilliams Sherry may result in making love to a stomach pump.

To CPL (Wee Wee) Watts: brewing up on stand-to may result in back to back guard duty.

To LCPL Boyle: a quick jog up Castle Hill is not every women's idea of a romantic evening.

landed in hospital. He can't remember if he lost his memory or not but hopefully he'll be back with 6 again next year.

Highlights of the year have been stand down; "Buster" Burkes enthusiasm to carry or get a machine gun; emu bobbing leaves in front of BHQ; SGT "Splinter" Mills' efforts to get flyscreens cleaned of paint by using steel wool — the paint was probably there since the first freedom of the city; and civvy duties in the mess.

Things we would like to see next year are — the OC getting a new slouch hat; if the bosses fringe really does touch his knees; the rest of the coy learn how to say "4 or 5 Pl", not "6 Pl"; Alpha Coy learn to play something other than soccer all the time; LT Luke's wife; Officers taking more notice of furphies, as they really do come true; the old lines converted before we get back; and a pay level 4 test.

We look forward to getting back next year to spin yet another warry.